

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

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SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE U.S.-JAPAN ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING

1. U.S.-JAPAN JOINT PLANNING AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MET IN TOKYO JUNE 8-10 TO DISCUSS RECENT ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, REVIEW BILATERAL PROJECT ACTIVITY, AND CONSIDER NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION UNDER U.S.-JAPAN ENVIRONMENTAL BILATERAL. MINISTER OF STATE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF JAPAN'S ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, SHINTARO ISHIHARA, LED JAPANESE DELEGATION. DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF U.S. EPA, BARBARA BLUM, HEADED U.S. DELEGATION.

2. ISHIHARA OPENED MEETING WITH STATEMENT WHICH EMPHASIZED RECENT PROGRESS IN JAPAN IN RESTORING LIFE TO RIVERS BUT CITED CONTINUING AIR POLLUTION, NOISE, AND VIBRATION PROBLEMS, AND NECESSITY FOR EFFECTIVE LAND USE AND RAISING CITIZEN'S LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. U.S. OUTLINED HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS AND NOTED THAT THESE REFLECTED INCREASED IMPETUS TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION IN U.S.

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3. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE UNDER TEN EXISTING PROJECT AREAS, WHILE AGREEING TO CONTINUE REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES. NEW PROJECT AREA PROPOSED BY JAPAN WAS "TECHNOLOGY FOR CLOSED SYSTEMIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE LIQUID TREATMENT." THIS PROJECT

WAS AGREED TO BY THE U.S. DELEGATION.

4. TWO DELEGATIONS EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES TO CONTROL OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES. JAPAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S VICE MINISTER KIDO, WHO CHAIRED BALANCE OF MEETING IN ISHIHARA'S ABSENCE, OUTLINED JAPANESE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES CONTROL LAW. KIDO STATED THAT JAPAN'S LAW AIMED AT CHECKIN DECOMPOSITION, BIOACCUMULATION, AND CHRONIC TOXICITY. U.S. DEL (MUIR, CEQ) GAVE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT. JAPANESE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN IMPLEMENTATION OF TSCA.

5. AT JAPANESE REQUEST, U.S. DELEGATION REVIEWED U.S. POLICY AND ACTIVITY IN PUBLIC INFORMATION IN ENVIRONMENT FIELD, NOISE CONTROL, EUTROPHICATION, MARINE POLLUTION, AND ROLE OF GREEN AND OPEN SPACE IN IMPROVING URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

6. U.S. PROPOSED NEW PROJECT ACTIVITY IN FOLLOWING AREAS: (A) WATER CONSERVATION AND FLOW REDUCTION IN JAPAN AND U.S.; (B) NONPOINT SOURCE CONTROLS IN WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT; (C) MEASUREMENT OF BYPRODUCT COKE OVEN EMISSION CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES; (D) ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND INCENTIVES FOR POLLUTION CONTROL; AND (E) RADIOACTIVE WASTE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY. JAPANESE SIDE INDICATED INTEREST IN ALL FIVE ABOVE PROJECT PROPOSALS, BUT WISHES TO EXPLORE THESE IN DETAIL BEFORE DECIDING UPON FORMAL PROJECT COOPERATION.

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7. U.S. REP EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR GLOBAL PROTECTION FROM THREAT OF UNCONTROLLED TOXIC SUBSTANCES, CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THEIR CONTROL AND INVITED JAPAN TO JOIN U.S. IN TAKING LEAD IN THAT EFFORT.

8. TWO SIDES AGREED NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON WITHIN NEXT 12-18 MONTHS, DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT BY CORRESPONDENCE. (COMMENT: JAPANESE CUT-BACK IN FOREIGN TRAVEL FUNDS IS BASIC FACTOR BEHIND INDETERMINATE TIMING FOR NEXT MEETING.)

9. U.S. REP PARTICIPATED IN USIS-ARRANGED MEETING WITH JAPANESE GROUP CONSISTING MAINLY OF INDUSTRIALISTS CONCERNED WITH ENVIRONMENT. BLUM RESPONDED TO VARIETY OF QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CENTERING MAINLY ON CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT. SHE ALSO TOOK PART

IN HEAVILY-ATTENDED JOINT JAPAN-U.S. PRESS CONFERENCE
FOLLOWING JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. BLUM ANSWERED QUESTIONS
ON CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, ESPECIALLY RELATING
TO CLEAN AIR ACT, TOXIC SUBSTANCES, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION,
AND PROPOSED PALAU SUPERPORT.

10. COMENT: MEETING WAS CHARACTERIZED BY HARMONIOUS
AND CONSTRUCTIVE REVIEW IN WHICH BOTH DELGATIONS
ECOGNIZED VALUE OF CONTINUED COOPERATION. U.S. FIVE
NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS INDICATIVE OF FACT THAT U.S.
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF GAINING CONSIDERABLE
INFORMATION FROM JAPANESE SIDE. LATTER, WHILE NOT
COMMITTING THEMSELVES, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FIVE AREAS.
MEETING GAVE FURTHER IMPETUS TO CONTINUING FRUITFUL
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE CHARACTERIZED
BY QUID PRO QUO OF DEFINITE BENFIT TO U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRESS.

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